

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

****For Immediate Release**

Date: November 21, 2007

Contact: Acting Sergeant Rachel Gardner

Phone: 360-239-0726

Western State Hospital Employee Arrested for Communicating with a Minor

The Washington State Patrol's Missing & Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) arrested a 51- year-old Western State Hospital employee on November 20, 2007. James Von Steuben, a computer consultant for Western State Hospital, was arrested for Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes.

The case was referred to MECTF from a Florida police agency. Von Steuben allegedly sent pictures of himself to a 14-year-old Florida girl. They chatted online for almost a year, and the conversations were sexual in nature. The conversations also referred to Von Steuben traveling to Florida to meet the under-aged girl in person and to find a location where they could get married.

Von Steuben was taken into custody at Western State Hospital and booked into the Pierce County Jail on 25 counts of Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes.

###

The Missing and Exploited Children Task Force is a multi-agency task force that assists law enforcement, state and federal agencies, and the proper custodial parent(s) or guardian(s) by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children. For more information about the task force, please contact Detective Sergeant John-Paul Sager at (360) 704-2390 or visit www.wsp.wa.gov/missing/ourkids.htm